

MARCH 23, 2005

The North Providence School Committee met on March 23, 2005 at 7:12 p.m.

In the Library at the High School. Members present were Chairman Marciano, Dr. Pallotta, Mrs. Reall, Mr. DaSilva, Mr. Cataldi, Mr. Wilkes, and Mr. Martinelli. Also present were Superintendent Ottaviano, Mr. Scungio and Mr. Cascione. Mrs. Hickey, Ms. Celona and Mr. Milazzo were present for the regular meeting only.

The meeting began by saluting the flag. Next, Chairman Marciano asked for a moment of silence.

The first item on the Agenda was Correspondence. There being none. The next item on the Agenda was the Superintendent's Report. Chairman Marciano asked that Student Recognition be taken before the Superintendent's Report. Hearing no objection, recognition was given to the 1st ad hoc team of Life Smart. Next, the District spelling champion from Marieville School, Dennis Bollio, was presented with a certificate. Mr. DaSilva thanked Mr. Butler for organizing the event.

Next was the Superintendent's Report.

Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the list of teachers submitted in the March 23, 2005 School Committee packets be granted tenure.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to grant tenure to the list of teachers submitted in the March 23, 2005 School Committee packets.

Next was the NASSP Conference. Mr. Goho gave a brief presentation highlighting the major points of the presentation that he made at the conference outlining the improvement plan. He spoke about all the people that helped make the plan a success, including the administration, faculty, staff, School Committee and a special thank you to John Maguire for his leadership. He also spoke about the senior project presentations and invited everyone to attend on May 24th from 12:00 – 2:00. Chairman Marciano thanked Mr. Goho for his presentation. Mr. DaSilva stated that the fact that Mr. Goho was asked to go to San Francisco to make a presentation at the conference boggles the mind. He felt that we are very fortunate to have Mr. Goho and thanked him very much.

Next was Field Trip Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the requests as submitted in the March 23, 2005 School Committee packets as per school committee policy.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to approve the requests as submitted.

Mr. Martinelli asked if the Pequot Museum was physically connected

to the casino. Mrs. Reall stated that it is not.

Next was the Monthly Financial Report. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the March 23, 2005 Monthly Financial Report be approved as presented and paid. Several members of the committee asked questions regarding the report.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to approve the March 23, 2005 Monthly Financial Report as presented.

Mr. Cataldi commented that for future reference, when there is a negative line item, eliminate it from that line. Mr. Scungio stated that a line item cannot be changed unless a motion is made to allocate money from one item to another.

Superintendent Ottaviano asked Ms. Celona to give a brief presentation of the bills that have been paid, which she did. Mr. Marciano thanked Ms. Celona for the information.

Next was School Committee Reports.

First was Property Usage. Mr. DaSilva spoke about turning the Centredale Field over to Mr. Groccia, the Athletic Director. He felt that anyone wishing to use the field could speak with Mr. Groccia.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Cataldi and carried to turn

the Use of Property for the Centredale School Field over to Mr. Groccia.

Next was Non-Resident Students. Mr. Cataldi spoke about joint effort with Mr. Wilkes to attempt to hire an outside collection agency to collect monies from students that were thrown out of the district for non-residency. This year, there were 51 students targeted and transferred. There are still 30 cases pending. The average has been 100 students each year. That represents a lot of money that is being left on the table. He

suggested that those duties be added to Ms. Pellegrino's job description because she has the knowledge and the know how to collect the money. He suggested that she be made collection officer and that a stipend be added to her pay. He asked Superintendent Ottaviano and Mr. Scungio to meet with Ms. Pellegrino to work out the details and have the Superintendent make a recommendation. He further urged all the members of the School Committee to support this. Mr. Martinelli added that if Ms. Pellegrino needs any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask the Committee. Mr. Cataldi also spoke about the great work that officers do in assisting Ms. Pellegrino.

Next was Pension Reform. Mr. DaSilva asked that a letter be sent to our legislators asking them to enact some time of reform.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to send a letter to the members of the General Assembly asking them to enact

some type of pension reform.

Next was Employee Residency. Mr. Anthony Norato requested that he be allowed to address the Committee before discussion on this issue. He introduced himself and stated that he represents the Local 2435 AFT as its President. He felt that the Home Rule Charter, which was defeated in 1996, addressed this issue and was not passed because residents did not want to have a residency rule. He felt that this is a serious matter and will force people that have been working in the Town for 19 years to lose their job. Additionally, employees were never informed when they were hired that there was a residency requirement. He asked that the matter be tabled for one month in order to give his people time to address this issue. Mr. DaSilva stated that this would be the third time that this matter was tabled. The matter has been on the Agenda since January. He asked Mr. Norato why he waited so long to address the matter. He agreed to table it for one more month, but stated that a decision will be made one way or the other next month. Mr. Marciano added that this is a very emotional issue and the School Committee is in a very difficult position with regard to the Town Charter. We cannot knowingly violate the Charter; it is the law. Mr. Martinelli asked to pass out information regarding the residency issue and asked members of the committee to consider it. Mr. Cataldi requested that this matter be placed first on the Agenda for next month. Dr. Pallotta stated that whether the issue is addressed this month or next, he has a problem with not grandfathering people that were not told about the residency

requirement when they were hired. They took the job on good faith that they did not have to reside in the Town. He felt that he would have a problem terminating someone that was hired before the residency issue was addressed. He added that he respects Mr. Scungio's opinion that we do not have to tell people that there is a residency requirement upon being hired. However, he feels that we have an ethical obligation. He has no problem establishing regulations. He does have a problem penalizing people that have worked for us for years. He added that he does not want to go against the Charter, but believes that the Charter is not intended as a means to terminate anyone. Mr. DaSilva stated that it would not be terminating anyone. Anyone effected by the regulation would have an opportunity to move into the Town. Some people that were living in the Town when they were hired moved out of the Town after they were hired.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to table the Non-Residency Issue for one month.

Next was I-Safe Curriculum. Mr. Cataldi spoke about the growing problem of cyber predators. He stated that it was brought to his attention at a recent parenting seminar and felt that we need to adopt an educational program to administer to the students. Dr. Pallotta stated that he had no problem with the program, but implementing it during the school day. Mr. Cataldi stated that he was thinking more along the lines of an assembly. He also added that the program

would be grant funded.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 3-5. Lucille Valliere, Union Steward, stated that the Town is not enforcing the residency requirement. Mr. Cataldi stated that the Town is enforcing it. He added that the Mayor has assured him that it will be enforced.

Next was Requests to Address the Committee.

Mr. Labbadia requested to speak to the Committee regarding a middle school girls softball team. Mr. Labbadia was unable to attend the meeting, but asked Mr. DaSilva to address this issue. Mr. DaSilva spoke about two teams being put together last year that were sponsored outside of the school system. Mr. Marciano asked if Mr. DaSilva had any idea what the cost would be. Mr. Emerson stated that it would cost approximately \$15,000.00 per sport. Last year, the children paid \$50.00. Mr. DaSilva suggested that Mr. Emerson check out the options and get back to the Committee.

Next was New Business.

First was Layoff Recisions. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Layoff Recision provided in the March 23, 2005 School Committee packets be approved.

Motion by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve

the layoff recision as provided in the March 23, 2005 School Committee packets.

Next was Resignations. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee accept the Resignation of Gina Collins – Teacher Assistant Effective February 21, 2005 and Anthony Ficocelli – High School Boys' JV Baseball Coach effective March 14, 2005.

Motion by Mrs. Reall, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to accept the resignation of Gina Collins – Teacher Assistant effective February 21, 2005.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to accept the resignation of Anthony Ficocelli – High School Boys' JV Baseball Coach effective March 14, 2005.

Next was Retirements. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the retirement of Linda Fabrizio – Physical Education Teacher – NP High School effective at the end of the 2004/2005 School Year. She added that Ms. Fabrizio has been with the School Department for 29 years. Mr. Marciano added that he knows Ms. Fabrizio personally and feels that it is with regret that we accept her resignation.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to accept

with regret the retirement of Linda Fabrizio – Physical Education Teacher – NP High School effective at the end of the 2004/2005 School Year.

Next was the Retirement of Joseph Biscelli – Custodian effective June 16, 2005. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the retirement of Mr. Biscelli after 31 years of service.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to accept the retirement of Joseph Biscelli – Custodian effective June 16, 2005.

Next was the Retirement of Richard Sousa – Custodian effective February 25, 2005. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approved of the retirement of Richard Sousa.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Dr. Pallotta and carried to accept the resignation of Richard Sousa – Custodian effective February 25, 2005.

Next was Appointments. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointment of Robert Lynch – Director of Special Education/Student Services effective March 23, 2005.

Motion by Dr. Pallotta, seconded by Mr. DaSilva and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Robert Lynch – Director of Special Education/Student Services effective March 28, 2005.

Superintendent Ottaviano next recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointment of Kenneth Webster – Custodian effective February 28, 2005.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Kenneth Webster – Custodian effective February 28, 2005.

Superintendent Ottaviano next recommended that the Committee grant advice and consent to the appointment of Michael Whittet – Assistant High School Football Coach effective immediately.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to grant advice and consent to the appointment of Michael Whittet – Assistant High School Football Coach effective immediately.

Next was Old Business. There being none, the next Item on the Agenda was Use of Property Requests. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended approval of the Use of Property Requests as submitted.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried to approve

the Use of Property Requests as submitted in the March 23, 2005 School Committee packets.

Next was Approval of Bills. Superintendent Ottaviano recommended that the N.

Providence School Department List of Bills dated March 23, 2005 in the amount of \$642,152.01 be approved and paid.

Motion by Mr. Cataldi, seconded by Mr. Wilkes that the March 23, 2005 North Providence School Department List of Bills be approved and paid.

Next was Approval of Minutes.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and Mr. Wilkes and carried that the Minutes of the February 16, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting be approved and kept closed in accordance with R.I.G.L. 42-4-5.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mrs. Reall and carried that the Minutes of the February 16, 2005 North Providence School Committee Regular Session be approved as presented.

Next was Public Comments on Agenda Items 7-12. There being none, the next item on the Agenda was Pending Business.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried that “4. Centredale Field” be taken off the Agenda.

Motion by Mr. DaSilva, seconded by Mr. Wilkes and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wilkes